

AD 685325

TRANS 428

O RASPREDELENII KITOOBRAZNYKH V MORYAKH,
OMYVAYUSHCHIKH CHUKOTSKIY POLUOSTROV

(Distribution of Cetaceans in Seas
Surrounding the Chukchi Peninsula)

by

I. P. NIKULIN

TINRO

Vol. XXII
Pp. 255-257

1946

Translator: M. Slessers
Editor : B. Brun
Typed by : B. Davis



This document has been approved
for public release and sale; its
distribution is unlimited

U. S. NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
1969

Reproduced by the
CLEARINGHOUSE
for Federal Scientific & Technical
Information Springfield Va. 22151

ABSTRACT

The whales were observed in Chukchi area by the author (1937-1941) and the seamen of the Aleut (1942-1943). It appears that Balaena mysticetus and Delphinapterus dorofeevi migrate north in April-May and south in December. Eschrichtius glaucus, Balaenoptera acutorostrata, B. physalus, Megaptera nodosa and Orcinus orca appear off the Chukchi Peninsula in June and remain there until the end of October.

Translator

DISTRIBUTION OF CETACEANS IN SEAS SURROUNDING THE CHUKCHI PENINSULA

No one has specifically studied the distribution of whales in the water surrounding the Chukchi Peninsula. The observations conducted by Zenkovich* and the captains of whaling vessels only partly elucidate the problem for a brief period of the year (August-September).

When the author studied the Chukchi area (1937-1941), it was possible to obtain data on the occurrence of whales in the area. It should be noted that the observations were conducted mainly from the coast, but the observations were not regular. Therefore, the listed figures cannot reflect the numerical composition of whales in the Chukchi water. However, the paper has some interesting points, such as the dates of appearance, duration of stay and disappearance of whales off the Chukchi coast.

Species Composition

The following cetaceans can be considered as constant inhabitants of Chukchi area and N. Bering Sea:

1. Greenland or Arctic Whale (Balaena mysticetus Lin) occurs in coastal belt during migrations in April-June and November-December.
2. Gray Whale (Eschrichtius glaucus Cope) is observed from June to November. It occurs in groups (from several to a hundred or more individuals) and often enters gulfs and lagoons.
3. Little Piked Whale (Balaenoptera acutorostrata Lacepede) is found in the Bering Strait in June and October-November. It migrates south. Occurs singly near the coast.
4. Fin Whale (Balaenoptera physalus Lin) is found in groups in Chukchi area from the second half of June to the end of October.
5. Hump-back Whale (Megaptera nodosa Bonaterre) appears by the end of June or the beginning of July. Forms small groups off the coast; often is seen in bays and lagoons.
6. Killer Whale (Orcinus orca [Fabr]) approaches the Chukchi coast

*B. A. ZENKOVICH. (Development of marine mammal industry in Chukchi area.) PRIRODA, No. 11-12, 1938.

TABLE 1

QUANTITY OF WHALES OBSERVED IN CHUKCHI AREA

Month	Year	Total of Observed Whales	Species Not Determined	Fin Whale	Gray Whale	Humpback Whale	Little Piked Whale	Killer Whale	Greenland Whale	Beluga	Place of Observation
July	1937	151	-	70	-	80	-	-	1	-	Bering Strait mys Serdtse-Kamen'
Sept.		545	1	57	230	253	4	-	-	-	Bering Strait Proliv Senyavina mys Serdtse-Kamen'
Oct.		63	13	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	mys Serdtse-Kamen'
June	1938	153	39	-	105	-	3	1	6	-	Metkulen, Bering Strait
July		244	214	19	5	-	1	-	1	-	" " "
Aug.		169	88	12	1	60	-	8	-	-	Bering Strait, m. Intsova, m. Chaplina
Sept.		69	35	16	10	-	-	8	-	-	Bering Strait
Oct.		4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" "
April	1939	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	83	" "
May		38	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	37	" "
June		5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" "
July		47	20	19	2	-	6	-	-	-	" "
Aug.		264	16	60	70	31	71	16	-	-	" "
Sept.		62	-	14	35	14	-	-	-	-	" "
Aug.	1940	85	-	7	78	-	-	-	-	-	" "
Sept.		72	-	7	65	-	-	-	-	-	" "
June	1941	90	-	-	-	-	-	90	-	-	" "
Aug.		193	-	-	133	50	10	-	-	-	M. Intsova
Sept.		12	-	5	3	1	3	-	-	-	"
Oct.		130	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bering Strait
Aug.	1942	1408	-	164	1012	122	-	110	-	-	Anadyrskiy zaliv, Beringov proliv.
Sept.		782	-	551	142	77	-	12	-	-	Anadyrskiy zaliv. Beringov proliv.
Aug.	1943	32	-	-	13	19	-	-	-	-	Anadyrskiy zaliv.
Total for 7 Years		4704	564	1051	1904	687	115	245	10	120	

in November-December. In areas where the greatest masses converge, this carnivorous whale forms groups (from several to tens of individuals).

7. Beluga (Delphinapterus dorofeevi Klumov and Barabasch) appears /257 in the Bering Strait when migrating north in April and south in November-December. In this period the whale is found mainly in the estuaries of Anadyr' and Kolyma.

Seasonal Distribution of Whales in Chukchi Water

In April the Greenland whales and belugas migrate north through the Bering Strait. In June some species of whales approach the Chukchi Peninsula. The above table lists the observation data on whales in Chukchi area for 7 years.

Conclusion

On the basis of observations it was possible to determine the migration dates of whales in Chukchi area.

During the entire navigational period (April-November) the main commercial species (humpback w., gray w., fin whale and little piked whale) are observed in considerable numbers in the coastal belt in the visible range.

These data once more confirm the need for organization of a whaling base in Chukchi area.

ooOoo

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	
U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office		UNCLASSIFIED	
		2b. GROUP	
3. REPORT TITLE			
"Distribution of Cetaceans in Seas Surrounding the Chukchi Peninsula." O RASPREDELENII KITOOBRAZNYKH V MORYAKH OMYVAYUSHCHIKH CHUKOTSKIY POLUOSTROV.			
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)			
Translation			
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)			
I. P. NIKULIN			
6. REPORT DATE		7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS
1969			
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.		8a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
b. PROJECT NO.		NOO TRANS 428	
c.		9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
d.			
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT			
Each transmittal of this document outside the Department of Defense must have prior approval of the Naval Oceanographic Office.			
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY	
TINRO, Vol. XXII, Pp. 255-257		U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office Washington, D. C. 20390	
13. ABSTRACT			
<p>The whales were observed in Chukchi area by the author (1937-1941) and the seamen of the Aleut (1942-1943). It appears that <u>Balaena mysticetus</u> and <u>Delphinapterus dorofeevi</u> migrate north in April-May and south in December. <u>Eschrichtius glaucus</u>, <u>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</u>, <u>B. physalus</u>, <u>Megaptera nodosa</u> and <u>Orcinus orca</u> appear off the Chukchi Peninsula in June and remain there until the end of October.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Translator</p>			

DD FORM 1473

1 NOV 65

(PAGE 1)

S/N 0101-807-6801

Security Classification

Security Classification.

14. KEY WORDS	LINK A		LINK B		LINK C	
	ROLE	WT	ROLE	WT	ROLE	WT
1. Cetacea - Chukchi Peninsula 2. Cetacea - N. Bering Sea 3. Whales 4. Aquatic animals						